

James Monroe to Andrew Jackson, October 21, 1814, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

SECRETARY MONROE TO JACKSON.

War Department, October 21, 1814;

Sir, Your letter of the 9th ultimo covering your correspondence with the Governor of Pensacola is received; and I hasten to communicate to you, the directions of the President, that you should at present take no measures, which would involve this Government in a contest with Spain. A minister having lately been appointed on our part, to that Government,¹ and our relations with it being amicable, it is deemed more proper, that a representation of the insolent and unjustifiable conduct of the Governor of Pensacola, should be made to that Government thro' the Ordinary channels of communication than that you should resent it by an attack on Pensacola. The President approves the manly tone with which you have asserted the rights of your country in your correspondence with the Governor of that province. Very important interests are committed to you, and great confidence is entertained, that you will meet the expectation, of the Government in the discharge of your duties.

¹ George W. Erving of Massachusetts, commissioned minister plenipotentiary Aug. 10, 1814.

It is thought very probable that the British forces expected from Europe, under Lord Hill,² will be directed against Louisiana. To enable you to meet this pressure 7,500 men have been Ordered from Tennessee 2,500 from Kentucky and a like number from Georgia, and it is expected that the Warriors of all the friendly tribes of Indians, will be secured by

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you on our side. One hundred thousand Dollars have been placed, subject to your Order, in the hands of the Governor of Tennessee, for the public service; and blankets and other Articles will be forwarded without delay for the use of the Indians.

2 Lord Hill, who had been one of Wellington's chief lieutenants in the Peninsular War (as afterward at Waterloo), was at first intended for the command of the expedition to Louisiana. Later Maj.-Gen. Robert Ross was designated, and, after his death at Baltimore, Sir Edward Pakenham.

I have the honor to be